

OK TO ENTER: /E.F./

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:	§	Docket No. P11712.00 / 31849.35
Shores et al.	§	
	§	
Serial No.: 10/698,638	§	Customer No. 46334
	§	
Filed: October 31, 2003	§	Group Art Unit: 3733
	§	
For: COUPLING SYSTEM FOR	§	Examiner: Cumberledge, Jerry L.
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	§	
	§	Confirmation No.: 3375

**Mail Stop: AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**MAILED APRIL 15, 2009**

**I. Introductory Remarks**

The present paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 15, 2009.

No fees, including extension of time fees, are believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. However, if any fees, including extension of time fees and extra claim fees, are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Haynes and Boone, LLP's Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

The **Listing of Claims** begins on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 9.